Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application:

1.   (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving (304), at a bi-directional communications device (130), an application level gateway (ALG) file (200);

comparing (308, 310, 314, 320, 326, 332, 336) at least one compatibility parameter of said ALG file with features of said bi-directional communications device; and

storing (340) said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to a favorable comparison of said at least one compatibility parameter.

2.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

rejecting (350) said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to an unfavorable comparison of said at least one compatibility parameter.

3.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a header format version (308) of said ALG file.

4.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a file size (310) of said ALG file.

5.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a header CRC value (314) of said ALG file.

6.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a header format version of said ALG file.

7.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a body CRC value (320) of said ALG file.

8.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises an authentication signature (326) of said ALG file.

9.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a hardware family version (332) of said ALG file.

10.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a software family version (336) of said ALG file.

11.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said bi-directional communications device comprises a cable modem (130).

12.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises:
       periodically polling a service provider (110) to determine if at least one of a new and updated ALG file is available;
       sending a request for an available ALG file; and
       receiving said requested ALG file from an access network.

13.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises:
       receiving a configuration file from said service provider, said configuration file identifying at least one of new and updated ALG files;
       sending a request for an available ALG files; and
       receiving said requested ALG file from an access network.

14.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a firewall program (150) utilizes said ALG files to control data traffic.

15.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ALG file ~~(200)~~ has appended thereto a header portion ~~(214)~~ comprising said compatibility parameters selected from the group comprising a header format version ~~(216)~~, a header size ~~(218)~~, a header expected CRC ~~(220)~~, an authentication signature ~~(222)~~, a body size ~~(224)~~, a body expected CRC ~~(226)~~, compatible hardware version family ~~(228)~~, and compatible software version family ~~(230)~~.

16.   (currently amended) Apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving, at a bi-directional communications device ~~(130)~~, an application level gateway ~~(ALG)~~ file ~~(200)~~;

means for comparing at least one compatibility parameter of said ALG file with features of said bi-directional communications device; and

means for storing ~~(136, 140)~~ said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to a favorable comparison of said at least one compatibility parameter.

17.   (original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

means for rejecting said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to an unfavorable comparison of said at least one compatibility parameter.

18.   (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said bi-directional communications device comprises a cable modem ~~(130)~~.

19.   (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said ALG file has appended thereto a header portion ~~(214)~~ comprising said compatibility parameters selected from the group comprising a header format version ~~(216)~~, a header size ~~(218)~~, a header expected CRC ~~(220)~~, an authentication signature ~~(222)~~, a body size ~~(224)~~, a body expected CRC ~~(226)~~, compatible hardware version family ~~(228)~~, and compatible software version family ~~(230)~~.